



WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence made the following statement today honoring the life of the former GOP Conference Chairman and Republican Vice Presidential nominee, Jack Kemp:

"I rise in support of H.Res.401, honoring the life and recognizing the far-reaching accomplishments of the Honorable Jack Kemp, Jr.

"Along with millions of Americans, my family and I were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Jack Kemp. Jack Kemp was a hero who became my friend and I will miss him dearly.

"Jack Kemp was a great man whose character, optimism and compassion will shape his party and his nation for generations.

"As a legislator and a thought leader, Jack Kemp shaped a rising generation of leaders in both parties with his ideas about entrepreneurial capitalism, enterprise zones and

equality. Those ideas were the driving force behind the economic policies of President Ronald Reagan and the welfare reform of the Republican Congress.

"His optimistic belief in the American dream-in the power of free markets and entrepreneurial capitalism-was a lodestar to millions of Americans. His devotion to ensuring equality of opportunity for every American regardless of race, creed or color helped ground the Republican Party in the true ideals of Lincoln. His integrity and personal Christian faith showed his colleagues how to build a career in public service without compromising the people and the values that matter most.

"Speaking to the Concerned Women for America in 1993 -- a time when Republicans were running scared and some spoke of deserting the 'social issues' platform -- Jack Kemp said: 'Every single year, there is a tragic silence of a million newborn cries that will never be heard. Talents that will never be developed. Potential that we will never see. Books never authored. Inventions never made... The right to life is a gift of God, not a gift of the state. Abortion must never rest easy on the conscience of our nation.'

"Jack was a passionate advocate for life and the unborn of all races. His life and work had an enormous impact on U.S. foreign aid policy.

"The Kemp-Kasten provision, in effect for more than two decades (first enacted in 1984 for the 1985 fiscal year), prohibits U.S. funding of any organization that 'supports or participates in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntarily sterilization.' Under this law, the United States cut off funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) starting in 2002 because, in the words of Colin Powell, 'UNFPA's support of, and involvement in, China's population-planning activities allows the Chinese government to implement more effectively its program of coercive abortion. Therefore, it is not permissible to continue funding UNFPA at this time.' In 2008, the State Department again determined that UNFPA continued to support the Chinese population control program through financial support for the very Chinese agencies that enforce the policy.

"Tragically, Kemp-Kasten was gutted in the recently passed Omnibus to allow funding to again flow to the UNFPA which can resume using taxpayer dollars to assist the Chinese government with their coercive population control program.

"On occasion, there are giants among us-men like Benjamin Franklin and Booker T. Washington-who never held the highest elective office in the land but shaped their times by strong moral persuasion and political activism. Jack Kemp was such a man.

"Our hearts are broken but our gratitude is boundless. Our prayers go out to his beloved Joanne and his entire family. The debt this nation owes Jack Kemp can only be repaid by imitation of his example.

"I will always be proud to have known this good and great man and I will always say that I am, first and foremost, a 'Jack Kemp Republican.'"